

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): An optical rotation angle measuring apparatus comprising:
 - a linearly polarized light output section that outputs a linearly polarized light;
 - a phase modulation section that is configured so that fluctuations in modulation characteristic of a first phase modulation unit having a first polarization axis in a predetermined direction and a second phase modulation unit having a second polarization axis orthogonal to the first polarization axis cancel each other, and that modulates a phase of the linearly polarized light output from the linearly polarized light output section;
 - a signal supply section that supplies a modulation signal having a predetermined amplitude for modulating the phase of the linearly polarized light to one of the first and the second phase modulation units;
 - a light intensity detection section that detects an intensity of a light that is emitted from the phase modulation section and transmitted by a sample containing an optically active material that rotates a polarization plane of the light, following a supply of the modulation signal to one of the first and the second phase modulation units by the signal supply section; and
 - an optical rotation angle calculation section that calculates an optical rotation angle by the sample based on the modulation signal supplied from the signal supply section and the intensity of the light detected by the light intensity detection section.
2. (previously presented): The optical rotation angle measuring apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
 - the signal supply section further supplies a preset offset signal to the first and the second phase modulation units, and
 - the light intensity detection section further detects the intensity of the light that is emitted from the phase modulation section and transmitted by the sample containing the optically active

material that rotates the polarization plane of the light, following a supply of the predetermined offset signal to the first and the second phase modulation units by the signal supply section.

3. (previously presented): The optical rotation angle measuring apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein

the first phase modulation unit includes a first liquid crystal element a liquid crystal orientation direction of which is a direction of the first polarization axis, and

the second phase modulation unit includes a second liquid crystal element which is different from the first liquid crystal element and a liquid crystal orientation direction of which is a direction of the second polarization axis.

4. (original): The optical rotation angle measuring apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the first and the second liquid crystal elements are liquid crystal elements manufactured at predetermined manufacturing steps, manufactured on an equal liquid crystal substrate, and equal in structure.

5. (original): The optical rotation angle measuring apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the first liquid crystal element is a liquid crystal element manufactured in an arbitrary position on the liquid crystal substrate, and the second liquid crystal element is a liquid crystal element manufactured near the first liquid crystal element on the liquid crystal substrate.

6. (currently amended): The optical rotation angle measuring apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 3 to 5~~claim 3, wherein the first and the second liquid crystal elements are homogeneous alignment-type liquid crystal elements.

7. (original): The optical rotation angle measuring apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the first and the second liquid crystal elements include electrode substrates and counter

substrates between which liquid crystals are held, respectively, and are equal in the liquid crystal orientation direction and equal in structure, and

the first and the second liquid crystal elements are arranged in series to an optical path from the linearly polarized light output section to the light intensity detection section so that the liquid crystal orientation direction of the first liquid crystal element is orthogonal to the liquid crystal orientation direction of the second liquid crystal element.

8. (original): The optical rotation angle measuring apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the first and the second liquid crystal elements are arranged so that the electrode substrates or the counter substrates of the respective liquid crystal elements face each other.

9. (original): The optical rotation angle measuring apparatus according to claim 3, wherein at least one of the first and the second liquid crystal elements includes:

a rectangular first substrate including a first electrode;

a rectangular second substrate including a second electrode, the liquid crystal held between the first electrode and the second electrode;

a first input electrode for inputting the signal from the signal supply section to the first electrode; and

a second input electrode for inputting the signal from the signal supply section to the second electrode, wherein

the first and the second input electrodes are provided near one end side of the second substrate along the end side, and the first and the second input electrodes are also provided near an end side other than the one end side of the second substrate.

10. (original): The optical rotation angle measuring apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the first liquid crystal element includes:

a rectangular first substrate including a first electrode;

a rectangular second substrate including a second electrode, the liquid crystal being held between the first electrode and the second electrode, the second substrate being larger

than the first substrate;

a first input electrode for inputting the signal from the signal supply section to the first electrode; and

a second input electrode for inputting the signal from the signal supply section to the second electrode,

the first and the second input electrodes are arranged in series near one end side of the second substrate along the end side, and the first and the second input electrodes are arranged in series near an end side orthogonal to the one end side of the second substrate,

the second liquid crystal is equal to the first liquid crystal in the liquid crystal orientation direction and in structure, and

the first and the second liquid crystal elements are arranged in series on an optical path from the linearly polarized light output section to the light intensity detection section so that the liquid crystal orientation direction of the first liquid crystal element is orthogonal to the liquid crystal orientation direction of the second liquid crystal element.

11. (original): The optical rotation angle measuring apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising:

a liquid crystal element holding section that holds the first and the second liquid crystal elements.

12. (original): The optical rotation angle measuring apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising:

a pair of quarter-wave plates arranged in series on an optical path from the linearly polarized light output section to the light intensity detection section while the sample is held between the pair of quarter-wave plates.

13. (previously presented): The optical rotation angle measuring apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

the first phase modulation unit is a first pixel group constituted by a part of a plurality of

pixels that constitute a single liquid crystal element, and

the second phase modulation unit is a second pixel group constituted by pixels other than the part of the plurality of pixels that constitute the single liquid crystal element, the other pixels and the part of pixels being alternately arranged.

14. (original): The optical rotation angle measuring apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:

a condensing section, provided between the first and the second pixel groups and the light intensity detection section, for condensing the light emitted from the first and the second pixel groups and transmitted by the sample containing the optically active material that rotates the polarization plane of the light, and for emitting the light to the light intensity detection section.

15. (currently amended): The optical rotation angle measuring apparatus according to claim 3, ~~13, or 14~~, wherein

the offset signal supplied from the signal supply section is a signal in a section in which a phase modulation amount of the liquid crystal element is linearly changed.

16. (previously presented): The optical rotation angle measuring apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

the first phase modulation unit includes a first liquid crystal element a liquid crystal orientation direction of which is a direction of the first polarization axis,

the second phase modulation unit includes a second liquid crystal element which is different from the first liquid crystal element and a liquid crystal orientation direction of which is a direction of the second polarization axis, and

the offset signal supplied from the signal supply section is a signal in a section in which a phase modulation amount of the liquid crystal element is linearly changed.

17. (new): The optical rotation angle measuring apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the offset signal supplied from the signal supply section is a signal in a section in which a

phase modulation amount of the liquid crystal element is linearly changed.

18. (new): The optical rotation angle measuring apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the offset signal supplied from the signal supply section is a signal in a section in which a phase modulation amount of the liquid crystal element is linearly changed.
19. (new): The optical rotation angle measuring apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the first and the second liquid crystal elements are homogeneous alignment-type liquid crystal elements.
20. (new): The optical rotation angle measuring apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the first and the second liquid crystal elements are homogeneous alignment-type liquid crystal elements.